(e) the number of various category of posts lying vacant in North-East since when and time by which these are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Regular river conservancy works such as bandalling and channal marking have been carried out during 8th and 9th plan for maintaining navigable depth in Dhubri-Dibrugarh sector. One Hydraulic Surface Dredger is being constructed for NW-2 which will supplement bandalling in maintaining the navigable depth. In the current year the river conservancy works are being extended up to Sadiya.

(b) Floating terminals/jetties have been provided at Dhubri, Jogighopa, Pandu, Tezpur and Neamati at locations which have connections with roads. Transit sheds are available at Pandu. In addition floating pontoons are under construction for provision of floating jetties at Sadiya and Saikhowa.

(c) The programmes include provision of infrastructural facilities on NW-2 such as floating terminals and permanent intermodal terminals at selected locations, 24 hrs. navigational aids, river conservancy works including bandalling, channel marking, Procurement of Hardware for dredging, survey vessels, tugs, survey equipment, polution control activities etc. Implementation of these works will however be subject to availability of resources.

Further, Techno-Economic feasibility study has been completed for Kraimganj- Lakhimpur stretch of river Barak. Its declaration as National Waterway and subsequent development will however depend on availability of funds.

(d) At present the navigable depth is being maintained by Bandalling alone. For dredging in Barahmaputra, one Hydaulic Surface Dredger is under consideration which on development will supplement the bandalling for maintenance of navigable depth.

(e) Against 33 sanctioned posts of various caegories, 8 posts are lying vacant since 16.12.1994. these posts are to be filled up on the acceptance of recommendation made by Staff Inspection Unit.

Conversion of Sharkhej-Maliya highway into National Highway

137. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Gujarat has sent a proposal for conversion of Sharkhej-Sanand Viramgam-Malvan-Dhrengad-Halvad- Maliya State Highway No. 7 and 17 joining NH No. 8A near Ahmedabad and NH No. 8A near Maliya into National Highway;

(b) if so, the present status of the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government for conversion of the State Highway into National Highway; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and by what time these State Highways would be declared as National Highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The proposal could not be accepted for declaration as new national highway due to inter-se priority of other proposal received from various State Governments and paucity of funds.

Corporatisation of Ports

138. SHRI N.R. DASARI:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to corporatise three ports, namely Ennore, Jawaharlal Nehru PT and Haldia; and

(b) if so, what are the objectives of corporatising these ports; and what is meant by corporatisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Only in-principle decision has been taken to set up a corporate structure for Ennore Port, which is under construction and yet to be declared as a Major Port and to corporatise the Major Ports in stages starting with JNPT and